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Origin

Info:

ACTION: Amembassy ROME

RPT: Amembassy PARIS
LIMDIS
STATE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR

Following based on uncleared ~~memcon~~, NOFORN, ~~FYI~~, and subject revision. upon review.

1. Italian Ambassador Ortona called on Secretary January 18 to deliver letter from Foreign Minister Fanfani in response to Secretary's letter of December 4, 1967. Ortona said that Fanfani accepted idea for exchange of views at diplomatic level and was prepared to ~~begin~~ have begin talks on February 7 at the Solomon-Ortona level. Ortona said that ~~the~~ letter gave certain preliminary views on this complex problem and that more substantive views would be presented in ~~the~~ course of diplomatic exchange. Ortona said he wished to emphasize three particular points at this stage: (a) Although Saragat had mentioned 1948 agreement as QTE armistice UNQTE agreement, this had not been meant in formal sense, but rather to indicate that

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that because of disequilibrium between Italian and US civil aviation capabilities at end of war, agreement had not been properly balanced. Thus, 1948 agreement had QTE marks of armistice atmosphere UNQTE. (b) Question of economic valuation of routes was of concern to Italy. Principal point was that Italy wished equality of opportunity. (c) US balance of payments program has created QTE nervous atmosphere UNQTE with respect to civil air problem.

2. Commenting specifically on point (b) above, Secretary said he did not believe it would be useful to approach these negotiations from political point of view. He thought that basic motives in this matter were same for both sides. Each side looked to profit motives and he believed it was desirable to approach this problem from practical, commercial point of view. Secretary stressed that we would approach these diplomatic exchanges with good will in hope of finding solution.

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END

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